

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 VIENTI 00651 300203Z  
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 JUSE-00  
NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-06  
OMB-01 DODE-00 AGRE-00 HEW-04 /066 W  
-----301130Z 040803 /14

R 291000Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7994  
INFO AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY MANILA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY RANGOON  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
CINCPAC FOR POLAD  
DEA WASHDC

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 0651

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2  
TAGS: SNAR LA  
SUBJECT: LAO OPIUM IN THE INTERNATIONAL ILLICIT DRUG MARKET

REF A BANGKOK 6685, B 76 VIENTIANE 2853, C 76 VIENTIANE  
2616, D DEA GFWA-7(8002, FEBRUARY 16, 1977, E DEA-6  
GFWA-76-8002, NOVEMBER 8, 1976, F VIENTIANE 0262,  
G 76 VIENTIANE 2971, H BANGKOK 1481 (ALL REFS NOTAL)

1. VIENTIANE WELCOMES REF A'S ATTEMPTS TO COMPILE  
NARCOTICS PRODUCTION AND USAGE DATA IN THE REGION BUT  
REITERATES ITS RESERVATIONS REGARDING REF A'S (PARA 3)  
CONCLUSION THAT "THE GENERAL CONSENSUS SEEMS TO BE  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 VIENTI 00651 300203Z

THAT ALMOST ALL OPIUM PRODUCED IN LAOS IS CONSUMED  
THERE."

2. AS WE HAVE ARGUED EARLIER (REFS B, C), THERE ARE  
AMPLE GROUNDS FOR BELIEF THAT LAO OPIUM DOES ENTER THE  
ILLICIT WORLD MARKET FOR NARCOTICS. RECENT REPORTING  
FROM BANGKOK AND VIENTIANE (REFS D, E, F) TENDS TO

SUBSTANTIATE THIS VIEW.

3. A FACTOR THAT MAY SKEW ANY STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF OPIUM PRODUCTION/USAGE FOR LAOS IS THE LIKELIHOOD THAT SIGNIFICANT QUANTITIES OF LAO OPIUM PRODUCED IN PREVIOUS YEARS IN PATHET LAO CONTROLLED AREAS OF LAOS MAY ONLY RECENTLY HAVE BEGUN TO ENTER WORLD NARCOTICS TRAFFIC. LAO INTEREST IN SELLING TO JAPAN QUANTITIES OF OPIUM FAR IN EXCESS OF LPDR'S ESTIMATED ANNUAL PRODUCTION (REF G) AND LPDR PRACTICE OF MAINTAINING AT LEAST SOME STOCKS OF OPIUM (REF H) SUPPORT THIS IMPRESSION.

CORCORAN

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NARCOTICS, PRODUCTION, DATA, DRUG CONTROL  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 29-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977VIENTI00651  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X2  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770108-1190  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** VIENTIANE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t1977039/aaaaahqh.tel  
**Line Count:** 74  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 25c412bd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3198305  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LAO OPIUM IN THE INTERNATIONAL ILLICIT DRUG MARKET  
**TAGS:** SNAR, LA, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkvgwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/25c412bd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009